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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY , REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO

COUNTRY: East Germany

DATE DISTR: 1955

SUBJECT: Military Activities in Dessau-Rosslau and Luckenwalde-Jueterbog Areas

NO OF PAGES: 2 25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT TO

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1. During the night of 3 January 1955, 20 tanks and several armored personnel carriers and trucks passed through Klein-Kuehnau just west of Dessau. The vehicles came from the direction of Dessau and proceeded toward the drill ground east of the Dessau airfield. Eight of the tanks were T-34/85 tanks. Five of the tanks had no turrets and 7 tanks were described as follows: five bogie wheels similar to T-34 tanks, a gun of approximately 100 mm caliber without muzzle brake; turtle-shaped turret, lower than that of a T-34 tank and somewhat more to the rear; 2 hatches.

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On 4 January, the vehicles were seen training at the drill ground. Between 1100 and 2000 on 8 January, the same tanks, armored personnel carriers and trucks returned in small groups.¹

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Soldiers observed with the column wore red-bordered black epaulets. They repeatedly asked for the road to Rosslau.²

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2. Between 5 and 8 January, the Jueterbog training area (3209) was restricted. During this period, an AT unit fired in the Forst Zinna training area near Luckenwalde. Weapons and vehicles observed included: 100-mm AT guns, which fired at tow targets from a distance of approximately 800 meters; tractors and trucks.

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On 9 January, 30 AT gun emplacements which showed the prints of double tires were seen in the training area.³

3. On 7 January, 4 M-13 rocket launchers fired near Stalag I (3321) in Luckenwalde.⁴

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Comment. This is the first observation of tanks of the new type (T-54s?) with the 7th Gds Tank Div in Dessau-Rosslau. new-type tanks arrived in Leinsdorf near Dessau on 4 November.

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2. Comment. It is believed that, in connection with the personnel exchange, new training personnel were transferred to the 7th Gds Tank Div; it appeared therefore that the soldiers were not familiar with the locality.

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3. Comment.  the unit concerned belonged to the 14th Gds Mecz Div of the Third Gds Mecz Army. This assumption is supported by the fact that no movements from other army areas were observed during the period concerned.

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4. Comment. The rocket launchers probably belonged to the 91st Gds RI Regt of the Third Gds Mecz Army stationed in Stalag I in Luckenwalde.

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